

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. Claim 7 has been rejected for an informality. Claims 1, 8, 9, and 13-17 have been rejected under 102(e) as being anticipated by Denning et al. 6,525,611. Claims 2-7, 10-12, 18 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 7 was amended to depend from claim 6 rather than claim 1. The amendment to claim 7 was made to correct a typographical error, not to distinguish any prior art.

In response to the prior art rejection based on Denning et al., a § 1.131 declaration of Bruce A. Johnson is attached. Applicant believes that the attached declaration removes Denning et al. as prior art.

Some of the pending claims have been amended, but were not amended to distinguish the prior art. As noted in the Preliminary Amendment submitted on 9/29/03 with the present patent application, Applicant intended to submit a second Preliminary Amendment to submit new claims (see page 5, first paragraph of the Preliminary Amendment). Prior to submitting the second Preliminary Amendment, the Office Action dated 3/23/04 was received. Applicant notes that the allowable claims (claims 2-7, 10-12, 18 and 19) are substantially similar to allowed claims in the parent application (serial number 09/932,817). Therefore, some of the pending claims are being amended or cancelled, and new claims are being submitted. Applicant would also like to note that certain claims in the parent application were rejected based on Kashima 6,069,528.

Should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Bruce A. Johnson, Applicants' Attorney at 512-301-9900 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date



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